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SCIENCE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1919.

THE CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF
WASHINGTON¹

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WHEN the armistice was agreed to by the contending nations in November, 1918, the Institution had become more of an agency for the promotion of warfare than one for the promotion of peaceful pursuits. About two thirds of the staffs connected directly with the Institution, or somewhat more than 200 men, were engaged in war work, and about the same proportion applies to the Research Associates of the Institution and their collaborators. Nearly every expert of the institution was able to render assistance and many of them devoted their entire time and energies to government work. Of the larger undertakings in this work, the most conspicuous are the development to the point of quantity production of the optical glass industry by the Geophysical Laboratory; the manufacture of precision micrometers for the U. S. Bureau of Standards and the manufacture of optical adjuncts for artillery by the staff of the Mount Wilson Observatory; the construction of special devices for the Navy in the shops of the Department of Terrestrial Magnetism; the contributions of the Nutrition Laboratory to knowledge of the effects of undernutrition; and the information service rendered by the Department of Historical Research. These undertakings required many men in arduous researches and involved no inconsiderable costs to the institution, since it assumed, in most cases, the principal overhead expenses. Not less important relatively than these larger operations were many special and individual contributions to the general cause. That essential occupations were quickly developed for what are sometimes called "narrow specialists" in nearly every branch of learning cultivated by

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¹ From the report of the president, Dr. R. S. Woodward, for the year ending October 31, 1919.